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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/955,834	09/18/2001	Luis J. Lazaro JR.	98-417A	1256

7590

08/04/2003

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EXAMINER

MCCAMEY, ANN M

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2833

DATE MAILED: 08/04/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/955,834

Applicant(s)

LAZARO ET AL.

Examiner

Ann M McCamey

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 7/7/03.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other:

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DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bertsch (US 4,500,160) in view of Chase et al. (US 4,973,272).

Regarding claim 1, Bertsch discloses the invention substantially as claimed including a plurality of electrical contact pins 19 embedded in an insulating housing 11 having two layers of insulating material 11, 17, and a releasable fastener 52.

Bertsch does not disclose slotted female ends. Chase et al. teach slots (between beams 58) in the female end of an electrical connector to provide low contact resistance and high resistance to withdrawal for a pin of a given diameter (i.e. a rounded pin). It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art to include the slots as taught by Chase et al. in the female end of Bertsch to ensure a secure contact with a rounded pin.

Regarding claim 2, Chase et al. teach that the female end of the connector pin applies a sphincter force.

Regarding claim 3, it is inherent that the sphincter force be greater than the force required to uncouple the plug from the connector.

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Regarding claim 4, Bertsch discloses that the releasable fastener includes a screw.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed 7/7/03 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicant argues that Chase et al. do not teach slots, but teach the use of bands. *Remarks, Page 2 (7/7/03)*. Referring to Fig. 4 of the Chase et al., there are slots (***between*** the beams) shown in the female end of the electrical connector, irrespective of the fact that they are not specifically called as such, and thus, this feature is anticipated by the reference.

Applicant further argues that the layers of the Bertsch connector are not arranged so that they may be used to apply pressure to the male pins, i.e. the second layer shaped so that it applies pressure to the outer periphery of a female end, and that the female end of the pins are not embedded in the first layer to prevent the pin from being pushed out. *Remarks, Pages 3-4 (7/7/03)*. Bertsch discloses in column 4, lines 60-65, "a good tight fit will be maintained because of the bosses 86 and 86' and protuberances 87 and 89 and the member 25 limit the outward movement of the sides of the prong receptacles and thus prevent the connection between prongs 19' and the prong receptacles from becoming loosened," meeting the limitation. See Figs. 11 and 12. Fig. 11 shows the female end of the pins being embedded in the first layer to prevent the pin from being pushed out.

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Applicant's remaining arguments fail to comply with 37 CFR 1.111(b) because they amount to a general allegation that the claims define a patentable invention without specifically pointing out *how the language of the claims* patentably distinguishes them from the references. Specifically, Applicant discusses the general structure and alleged benefits of the present invention. However, without pointing to specific *claim language* that *structurally defines* these benefits, differentiating the claimed structure from the prior art, the claims are unpatentable.

Conclusion

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ann M McCamey whose telephone number is (703) 305-3422. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 9-5:30.

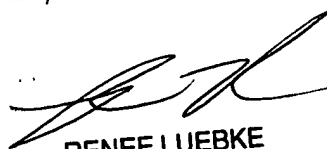
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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Paula A. Bradley can be reached on (703) 308-2319. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 872-9318 for regular communications and (703) 872-9319 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0956.

AMM

July 24, 2003



RENEE LUEBKE
PRIMARY EXAMINER